



AARP Montana
30 W. 14th Street
Suite 301
Helena, MT 59601

T 1-866-295-7278
F 406-441-2230
TTY 1-877-434-7598
www.aarp.org/mt

EXHIBIT 2 HUH
DATE 2-6-09
HB 325

February 6th, 2009

TO: Members of the House Human Services Committee

FROM: Rita Charles, volunteer advocate AARP Montana

RE: HB 325—assured coverage of colon cancer screening

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Rita Charles and I'm a volunteer advocate for AARP Montana – a non-profit non-partisan organization of 165,000 members in this state. AARP Montana believes that the fiscal and medical evidence in favor of colorectal cancer screening stands for itself and screening should be available to all Montanans.

A December 19th, 2008 editorial in the *New York Times* states that: "Colonoscopies have helped reduce the death rate from colorectal cancer. The main problem with colonoscopies is that too few people bother to get them." Before retirement, I had worked many years as a registered nurse and later as a certified registered nurse anesthetist and I have seen the positive results from early detection and the devastating results of late detection of colon cancer

House Bill 325 would help alleviate this problem and save lives in the process—we strongly support its passage. Thank you for your time.

2